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Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group

2006 second resumed session (18 December 2006)

2007 substantive session (28 February-16 March and 23 May 2007)

2007 resumed session (11 June 2007)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Part one
2006 second resumed session

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/289 of 8 September 2006, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held its 194th meeting on 18 December 2006 and adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations requests the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts to continue consideration of the revised draft model memorandum of understanding at a resumed session to be held no later than June 2007..

2. The Special Committee reiterates its belief that a strategy for victim assistance is an important element of a comprehensive response to the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse.

3. The Special Committee acknowledges that the draft comprehensive strategy as presented by the Secretary-General may have a United Nations-wide application.

4. The Special Committee requests the Chairperson of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to consult with the Chairman of the Fourth Committee and, as appropriate, the President of the General Assembly on the modalities for further consideration of the draft comprehensive strategy, and to report to the Special Committee at its next substantive session in this regard, for further decision of the Special Committee on the subject.

5. The Special Committee reiterates, that until a comprehensive strategy for assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse has been implemented, missions should continue to provide emergency assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse within current mission budgets, in accordance with the recommendation contained in its report on the 2005 resumed session.[1]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/59/19/Rev.1), part two, para. 35.

Part two
2007 substantive session

Chapter I
Introduction

1. In the report on its substantive session of 2006,[2] the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations decided to consider over the following five years the reform agenda proposed in 2006 ("Peace Operations 2010"), together with other issues related to United Nations peacekeeping. In the report on its resumed session of 2006 on matters related to sexual exploitation and abuse, held on 27 July 2006,[3] the Special Committee decided that the results of its second resumed session of 2006, to be held on 18 December 2006, might be incorporated in the report on its 2007 substantive session.

2. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 60/263 and 60/289, welcomed the above-mentioned reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field.

3. At its 195th meeting, on 26 February 2007, the Special Committee elected the following representatives as its officers for a one-year term of office: Aminu Bashir Wali, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, Chairperson; Diego Limeres (Argentina), Henri-Paul Normandin (Canada), Akio Miyajima (Japan) and Beata Peksą-Krawiec (Poland), Vice-Chairpersons; and Amr El-Sherbini (Egypt), Rapporteur.

4. The Special Committee also discussed the organization of its work and decided to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Canada, to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Special Committee by the General Assembly.

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[2] Ibid., *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/60/19/Rev.1), part one.

[3] Ibid., part two.

Chapter II
General debate and working group

5. At its 195th to 198th meetings, held on 26 and 27 February 2007, the Special Committee held a general debate on the matters presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee (A/61/668 and Add.1).

6. In his statement to the Special Committee at its 195th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations expressed his gratitude to the Special Committee for its active support in 2006, and paid tribute to all United Nations peacekeeping personnel in the field, in particular those who had died in the service of peacekeeping.

7. He highlighted the extraordinary demands placed on peacekeeping both in terms of numbers of operations and diversity of tasks, and the need to adapt to the evolving nature of challenges. He outlined how the reform agenda "Peace Operations 2010", presented in 2006 and centred on five priority areas (personnel, doctrine, partnerships, resources and organization), would provide a framework to strengthen United Nations capacity to meet those demands in a professional, effective and accountable way. He described the Secretary-General's proposals to realign the structure and strengthen the management of headquarters peacekeeping capacities by creating a Department of Field Support and a Department of Peace Operations as an innovative step to enable the consolidation of authority, responsibility and resources in the conduct of peacekeeping operations.

8. The Under-Secretary-General noted that the proposals to consolidate headquarters functions and responsibilities for peacekeeping operations provided opportunities to take forward the goals set out in Peace Operations 2010. Guided by an integrated mission planning cell, the integrated operational teams proposed by Peace Operations 2010 would be the core vehicle for integration of the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Field Support at all levels. Field efforts would be guided by a coherent body of common doctrine — policies, principles and procedures — to enhance safety and effectiveness. A consolidated capacity for field personnel would ensure responsiveness to the needs of the field, including continuity, professionalism and transparency in the provision of civilian personnel. Strategic partnerships with external entities such as regional arrangements and Bretton Woods institutions required further development, and peacekeeping resources needed to be consolidated in a manner that would, inter alia, allow the establishment of an improved public information capacity to support the growing number of public information components in the field.

9. The Under-Secretary-General cautioned, however, that there were also vital operational needs that demanded urgent attention and resources. He highlighted the urgent need to strengthen headquarters capacity in the areas of military planning, force generation and operations support, and to further expand the recently established Standing Police Capacity. To ensure a holistic approach to all aspects of the rule of law as recommended in the Brahimi report (A/55/305-S/2000/809), he proposed incorporating all aspects — including the police, the judiciary, corrections, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration — into one integrated Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions headed by an Assistant Secretary-General, and

creating a security sector reform support unit that would provide field operations with strategic policies, guidance and technical advice.

10. During the ensuing general debate, Member States welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee (A/61/668 and Add.1). Member States expressed their support for the Peace Operations 2010 agenda and noted progress in its five priority areas. They also expressed their agreement on the need for reform to better serve surging demand and improve effectiveness. Delegations underscored that reform should be accompanied by solid integration at all levels, include clear lines of responsibility, enhance safety and security of personnel and be conducted in close consultation with Member States. Many delegations expressed their support for the reinforcement of headquarters capacity, a holistic approach towards the rule of law and a coherent framework for security sector reform that emphasizes national ownership.

11. Member States expressed appreciation for the work done to develop a doctrine capstone document. They highlighted the importance of partnerships with regional arrangements, and supported current partnership with the African Union in capacity-building and in operationalizing the African standby force. Many expressed support for the Secretary-General's intent to establish a dedicated interdisciplinary capacity for partnership. With regard to personnel, the need for more balanced geographical balance was reiterated, as well as the proposal to deploy civilian observers, especially for support in specialized tasks.

12. Delegations noted the need to strengthen headquarters planning capacities. For the Military Division, they suggested strengthening military planning capacities. A suggestion was made to create a standing capacity of core planners to plan new missions until regular staffing was completed. Member States continue to explore all three options for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities (see para. 91 below). Many delegations commended the establishment of the Standing Police Capacity and suggested early expansion. Several delegations urged the Secretariat to take a more proactive role in implementing the integrated mission planning process.

13. Many delegations reiterated the need to improve safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in the field. In particular, they expressed concern at the increased number of fatalities of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in 2006 that were due to illness, and reiterated the need for an analysis of casualties including those related to medical conditions. They called for the full implementation of joint operation centres and joint mission analysis centres; several suggested the establishment of a strategic analysis cell at headquarters. They stressed the need for the Secretariat to intensify dialogue with troop-contributing countries and field commanders after incidents, and a review of the policy on boards of inquiry to this effect. They further called for the full implementation of joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres.

14. With respect to sexual exploitation and abuse, many delegations regretted that no consensus had been found on the model memorandum of understanding at the 2006 Resumed Session, in particular on the responsibility for investigations. Delegations stressed the importance of standards of conduct being made binding on all peacekeeping categories. Some welcomed the proposal to promote the ban on prostitution in peacekeeping operations, and noted the need so use preventive training more extensively and to strengthen the capacity of conduct and discipline teams in the field.

Chapter III
Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

15. The Special Committee reaffirms that it is the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations.

16. The Special Committee shares the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General that the capacity of the Secretariat, and in particular the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and related service departments, is challenged, mainly in the light of the extraordinary surge in demand and the complex and multidimensional peacekeeping operations.

17. The Special Committee recalls the measures that have been implemented since the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (Brahimi report) (A/55/305-S/2000/809) to enhance the capacity of the United Nations with respect to peacekeeping. The Special Committee further recalls its support for the reform agenda already under way within the wider framework of Peace Operations 2010 and for efforts to expedite its full implementation in order to equip the United Nations to meet current and future challenges.

18. The Special Committee supports the intention of the Secretary-General to further enhance the capacity of the United Nations for integrated multidimensional peacekeeping operations, with particular emphasis on establishing efficient headquarters capacity to support effective delivery of multidimensional peacekeeping.

19. In this respect, the Special Committee welcomes the Secretary-General's intention to realign the Secretariat.

20. The Special Committee requests that any realignment be conducted with the goal of achieving the key objectives outlined in the reform agenda presented to it at its 2006 substantive session, namely: (a) ensuring the success of missions; (b) enhancing the safety and security of personnel; (c) improving accountability and effective management of resources; (d) increasing qualified peacekeeping capacity; and (e) ensuring proper conduct and discipline. Any realignment should also take into full account the various initiatives currently under way, in particular Peace Operations 2010.

21. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to ensure accountability and responsibility of the Secretariat at all levels up to the Secretary-General, including clear lines of reporting, and to ensure greater accountability of the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer to the Member States for, inter alia, effective and efficient operations and management of resources.

22. In further developing the details of the proposed realignment, the Special Committee requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To ensure that the basic principle of safeguarding the safety and security of mission personnel guides any structural changes;

(b) To preserve the unity of command in missions at all levels by maintaining coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the

field and up to and including headquarters, as well as by describing the overall management concept in terms of reference and standard operating procedures;

(c) To guarantee integration of effort between the various structures at all levels; in close consultation with troop-contributing countries;

(d) To propose measures to ensure the adequate provision and management of resources at all levels, for consideration and approval by the General Assembly;

(e) To ensure that there is a single entry point for police- and troop-contributing countries to engage in the planning and conduct of integrated missions;

(f) To enhance field procurement so as to meet critical operational requirements in a cost-effective and timely manner and in accordance with fundamental principles of probity and accountability, including adequate internal checks and balances and effective oversight;

(g) To promote synergies and to avoid duplication of efforts and structures, and thereby make the best use of resources at hand.

23. The Special Committee looks forward to the separate report of the Secretary-General further elaborating the proposal for realignment, including its full financial implications, for consideration and decision of the General Assembly during its sixty-first session, in accordance with established procedures.

24. The Special Committee looks forward to continuing its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposals during its current substantive session.

A. Introduction

25. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter.

26. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that United Nations peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on United Nations peacekeeping operations.

27. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

28. Noting the sustained surge in United Nations peacekeeping efforts in various parts of the world, which requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to effectively maintain international peace and security. This calls for, inter

alia, an improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of United Nations peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

29. The Special Committee notes that in recent years the number of complex peacekeeping operations has increased and, as a consequence, the Security Council has mandated peacekeeping operations that have included, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, a number of other activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of an effective Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is efficiently structured and adequately staffed.

30. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and also emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations should be discussed in the Special Committee.

31. The Special Committee recalls that United Nations peacekeeping is conducted in accordance with the relevant chapters of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, nothing in the present report circumscribes the mandates and authority of the Security Council to maintain or restore international peace and security.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

32. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

33. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, is essential to its success.

34. The Special Committee recognizes that peacekeeping operations have become more complex and as such a common understanding of terminology is required in order to promote common approaches and cooperation.

35. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and development.

36. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter. The Special Committee notes the statements by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) and

20 February 2001 (S/PRST/2001/5) with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peacebuilding elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase. The Special Committee stresses the importance of those elements being explicitly defined and clearly identified before being incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Special Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peacebuilding activities.

37. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation and secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, adequate resources and congruity between mandates, resources and realizable objectives. The Special Committee emphasizes that, when changes are made to an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made to the resources available to a peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council in consultation with troop-contributing countries through the mechanisms prescribed in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) of 13 June 2001 and the note by the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56).

38. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations are within the purview of the Security Council.

C. Safety and security

39. The Special Committee is gravely concerned about the precarious security environment prevailing in many peacekeeping missions and, in that context, calls upon the Secretariat to give the utmost priority to enhancing the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel in the field. It condemns in the strongest terms the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in several missions and recognizes that those continuous attacks and other acts of violence against United Nations peacekeeping personnel constitute a major challenge to United Nations field operations.

40. The Special Committee pays tribute to the courage and dedication of personnel working in United Nations peacekeeping operations and to those who have lost their lives in the service of peace.

41. The Special Committee urges those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The Special Committee welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/42 of 8 December 2005, of the Optional Protocol extending the reach of the Convention. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 58/82 of 9 December 2003, in particular its recommendation that key provisions of the Convention, including those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, be included in

status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and host countries.

42. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 60/123 of 15 December 2005 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, and welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003 on the security of United Nations personnel.

43. The Special Committee welcomes the developing cooperation between the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as the recently published policy paper on cooperation and coordination between the two Departments, which includes an accountability framework. The Special Committee underlines the importance of elaborating modalities for this cooperation and requests the Secretariat to provide time frames for implementation of the policy.

44. Even though the new risk assessment process and increased capacity for collection and analysis of field information and its dissemination reduce risks, the Special Committee continues to advocate that the best assurance against such risks is a properly planned and mandated mission, encompassing well-trained, equipped and disciplined contingents that are deployed in the context of an ongoing political process.

45. The Special Committee welcomes the study launched by the Secretariat on the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies to tangibly improve operational capabilities, achieve results in the field and promote the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. Recognizing the urgent need for peacekeeping operations to standardize the use of advanced technology, particularly in missions operating in dangerous environments or mandated with challenging tasks, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to develop appropriate modalities for the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies with due attention to legal, operational, technical and financial considerations as well as the consent of the countries concerned with regard to their application in the field.

46. The Special Committee calls on the Secretariat to engage in the utilization of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies where appropriate, particularly in more dangerous missions, and to present a report to the Special Committee at its next session on the steps taken by the Secretariat towards achieving these ends and any further suggestions for consideration by the Special Committee. The Special Committee encourages dialogue among Member States and between Member States and the Secretariat to meet the objectives stated above.

47. The Special Committee welcomes the Secretariat's initiatives to better inform Member States in relation to United Nations boards of inquiry and urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to review its policy regarding the involvement of Member States in boards of inquiry, to allow national boards of inquiry to interview United Nations Headquarters and mission staff as part of their own investigations, and to report thereon to the Special Committee at its next substantive session.

48. The Special Committee takes note of the observations of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 32 of his report on the implementation of its recommendations (A/61/668) that board of inquiry reports are a key information

tool for Member States to pursue appropriate national procedures concerning incidents involving their personnel and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide to Member States board of inquiry reports concerning incidents involving their personnel.

49. In particular, the Special Committee requests that, in future, when there is any incident in a peacekeeping mission that negatively impacts on operational effectiveness, and/or results in the serious injury or death of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, constant communication with concerned Member States be initiated from the very outset and maintained through to the conclusion of the investigation of the incident. The Special Committee urges that the findings of boards of inquiry on serious injury or death be immediately shared with the concerned Member States, including troop-contributing countries, as appropriate, and that lessons learned from such incidents, and field-risk assessments, be shared with all Member States.

50. The Special Committee believes that the liaison arrangements of United Nations field operations, which are to maintain contact with the parties concerned, should be improved at appropriate levels, especially tactical and operational levels in the field, so as to establish effective immediate responses to safety and security issues as required.

51. The Special Committee commends the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its efforts in information management and sharing and welcomes the document on standard operating procedures for notification of casualties in peacekeeping operations and political and peacebuilding missions.

52. The Special Committee continues to believe that the safety and security of all United Nations and associated personnel within a peacekeeping mission are inextricably linked to the capability to execute operationally effective peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee underlines that the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel are also the responsibility of host countries to such peacekeeping operations.

53. Especially as concerns experts on mission, the Special Committee continues to stress the need to undertake thorough risk assessments prior to their deployment and to ensure that, wherever deployed, they are provided with adequate security so as to enable them to carry out their mandated tasks in an environment of minimum risk and potential for loss of life. The Special Committee recommends that the Security Council together with the countries hosting United Nations peacekeeping operations continue efforts to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping operations fully and effectively implement their mandates.

54. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security, develop an effective mechanism for undertaking periodic risk analyses in peacekeeping missions and at headquarters, to be conducted at every stage, especially prior to the establishment of a mission. This mechanism should include an integrated system of benchmarks to determine a security level for each mission, which should apply to all personnel and be shared with the troop-contributing countries.

55. The Special Committee notes with concern that some deployed troop formations are being stretched to cover geographic areas that exceed their capacities. Such practices not only threaten the safety and security of these troops,

but also adversely affect their performance, discipline and command and control. In this regard, the Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure United Nations peacekeeping personnel are deployed in accordance with agreed concepts of operation.

56. The Special Committee stresses that there needs to be accountability at all levels for effective and efficient deployment and further employment of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in peacekeeping operations, particularly in hostile and hazardous conditions.

57. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security, improve the protection of information that is crucial to the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, throughout missions and at headquarters.

58. The Special Committee expresses its concern over the quality of local security personnel being contracted by the Department of Safety and Security and the Field Procurement Section of the Department of Management for peacekeeping operations and the possible impact that it may have on the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security to work together to improve the quality of the local security personnel employed and to present a thorough policy for screening and verification before hiring which includes, inter alia, the criminal and human rights violations of the candidates, as well as links to security companies.

59. Considering the lead responsibility of the Department of Safety and Security in the framework of the unified security management system, and recognizing the need for close cooperation and interaction between the Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the field, the Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat explore the possibility of having seconded security personnel to enhance the safety and security of all personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

60. The Special Committee underlines the importance of the training of members of peacekeeping operations for assuring their safety and security in the field.

61. The Special Committee notes with concern that accidents and illness are responsible for a high level of fatalities in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee reiterates its request that the Secretariat undertake a comprehensive analysis of the factors and circumstances that have contributed to all types of fatalities of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in the field and report its findings to the Special Committee at the earliest opportunity, including suggested mechanisms to address this issue. In this connection, the Special Committee looks forward to the outcome of the meeting of an interdisciplinary working group of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to review the issue of data analysis on casualties. The Special Committee notes the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to have additional resources to enable it to undertake this task. The Special Committee also notes the need for information on the above issues to be provided on a regular basis to the troop-contributing countries.

62. The Special Committee also encourages a dialogue between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries to promote safety and security and to maximize efforts to reduce fatalities due to illness.

63. The Special Committee underlines the importance of preventive measures in assuring the safety and security of deployed personnel. The Special Committee recalls each troop-contributing country's responsibility to attest to the good health of its personnel. The Special Committee also recalls the responsibility of the United Nations to ensure adequate health care in the field and urges the United Nations to take appropriate measures to mitigate risks associated with mission areas.

64. The Special Committee notes that fully effective joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres are one of the key tools to assist mission safety and security efforts including through integration with the Department of Safety and Security, and in this regard supports their further development.

65. The Special Committee welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to convene regular meetings with troop-contributing countries to discuss issues related to safety and security, but reiterates its request that clear guidelines and procedures be put in place to facilitate information-sharing regarding safety and security issues as well as security management in peacekeeping operations. In order to improve sharing of risk information and analysis, the Special Committee recommends holding mission-specific meetings on a regular basis between members of the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and representatives of the troop-contributing countries.

D. Conduct and discipline

66. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to ensure that all personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. The Special Committee emphasizes that misconduct is unacceptable and has a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mandates, in particular with respect to the relations between United Nations peacekeeping personnel and the population of host countries. The prevention of any acts of misconduct and the maintenance of discipline of United Nations peacekeeping personnel is a responsibility of managers and commanders at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee emphasizes that the leadership of managers and commanders is vital in the prevention of misconduct.

67. The Special Committee welcomes measures taken by the Secretariat to establish professional investigation capacity in peacekeeping missions acting within the existing administrative authority of the United Nations, particularly in light of the assistance that such capacity, when necessary, can bring to troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee is nevertheless concerned about the number of outstanding allegations of misconduct, including of sexual exploitation and abuse, awaiting investigation, and is pleased that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security have made resources available to assist the Office of Internal Oversight Services in clearing this backlog. The Special Committee encourages further cooperation between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries in these investigations without prejudice to the exclusive jurisdiction of the troop-contributing countries over their contingents.

68. The Special Committee affirms that any kind of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel is detrimental to the missions and to the image of the Organization, and has adverse effects on the population of the host countries. The Special Committee

affirms that all peacekeeping personnel must adhere to all applicable rules, regulations, provisions and guidelines provided by the United Nations for peacekeepers, as well as to national laws and regulations. All acts of misconduct should be investigated and punished in accordance with due process of law.

69. The Special Committee continues to emphasize that due process and national legal requirements must always be observed during investigations.

70. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations take appropriate measures to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of United Nations peacekeeping missions, troop-contributing countries or United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations ensure that steps are taken to restore the image and credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are ultimately found to be legally unproven.

71. Recalling that the draft United Nations policy statement and draft United Nations comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff or related personnel (A/60/877, annex) as presented by the Secretary-General may have a United Nations-wide application, and having considered the results of the consultations of the Chairperson of the Special Committee, the Special Committee invites the President of the General Assembly to convene, at the earliest possible date during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and with the participation of all Member States, an ad hoc open-ended working group on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, to consider the draft United Nations policy statement and draft United Nations comprehensive strategy with a view to reporting, before the end of the sixty-first session, to the Assembly the results of the working group. The Special Committee also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the consultations of the working group benefit from full conference services. The Special Committee reiterates that until a comprehensive strategy for assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse has been implemented, missions should continue to provide emergency assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse within current mission budgets in accordance with the recommendation contained in the report of the Special Committee on the 2005 resumed session.[1]

72. The Special Committee looks forward to receiving the standard operating procedures on welfare and recreation. It encourages troop-contributing countries to continue to utilize fully the eight dollars per month per soldier for welfare activities in the mission area and reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General carry out a comprehensive review, including a cost-benefit analysis, in close consultation with Member States and calling on outside expertise as required, of the welfare and recreation needs of all categories of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and to make proposals on this issue to the General Assembly on an urgent basis.

73. The Special Committee commends the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for his efforts to address conduct and discipline issues. The Special Committee emphasizes its recommendations adopted since the resumed session of 2005. The Special Committee has decided to pursue and intensify work on the implementation of these recommendations.

74. The Special Committee welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to make the standards set forth in document ST/SGB/2003/13 binding as a standard of conduct for United Nations consultants and individual contractors through the new administrative instruction that entered into force on 1 April 2006 (ST/AI/1997/9/Amend.1), in addition to the previous decision to apply these standards to United Nations volunteers, United Nations staff members and experts on mission. The Special Committee reemphasizes the principle that the same standards of conduct must be applied to all categories of United Nations peacekeeping personnel without exception. Violations of these standards will result in appropriate action within the authority of the Secretary-General, while criminal and disciplinary responsibility in respect of members of national contingents depends on the national law of the Member State.

75. The Special Committee notes the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee by the General Assembly pursuant to resolution 61/29, open to all Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, scheduled to meet from 9 to 13 April 2007 for the purpose of considering the report of the Group of Legal Experts on ensuring the accountability of United Nations staff and experts on mission with respect to criminal acts committed in peacekeeping operations (A/60/980), in particular its legal aspects, and looks forward to its conclusions.

76. The Special Committee notes the observations contained in the report of the Group of Legal Experts on making the standards contained in the Secretary-General's bulletin binding on contingent members and standardizing the norms of conduct so that they are applicable to all categories of peacekeeping personnel (A/61/645) to the effect that there are basic norms of conduct that are already generally applicable to all categories of peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, the Special Committee also notes the recommendation of the Group of Legal Experts that there would however be merit in having a guide that summarizes the basic norms for all categories of peacekeeping personnel, and the two options put forward by the Group of Legal Experts to generate such a guide. The Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to generate such a guide and to present the result of its work to the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the memorandum of understanding for its consideration.

77. The Special Committee notes that the report of the Group of Legal Experts (A/61/645) contains recommendations that are related to the draft model memorandum of understanding under consideration by the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, and requests the Working Group to consider these recommendations at its next session, if time is available, or at a subsequent session.

78. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made by the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the memorandum of understanding, and encourages the Working Group to continue its efforts to consider outstanding issues. The Special Committee decides that the Working Group shall reconvene by the end of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. The Special Committee also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Working Group benefits from full conference services.

79. The Special Committee recognizes that troop- and police-contributing countries bear the primary responsibility for maintaining discipline among their contingents deployed in peacekeeping missions and for ensuring that they receive

appropriate predeployment training. The Secretariat will provide training modules for such training.

80. The Special Committee also recognizes that the United Nations should organize training sessions for national contingents on their arrival in the mission to emphasize the importance that the Organization attaches to the elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse.

81. The Special Committee reiterates that the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse should be part of the performance objectives of managers and commanders involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and that failure to implement all or parts of those objectives should be reflected in the performance appraisals of the managers and commanders concerned. The Special Committee encourages managers and commanders to continue to facilitate the investigations within their existing responsibilities. The Special Committee emphasizes that those who fail to meet managerial and command objectives in this regard must be held accountable. The Special Committee encourages Member States and the Secretariat, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to address the issues of accountability within their respective purviews.

82. The Special Committee welcomes the work carried out by the conduct and discipline teams at United Nations Headquarters and in the field. However, the Committee is concerned by their temporary nature and stresses the need for an adequate conduct and discipline capacity and invites the General Assembly to consider the comprehensive report prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/296 on sexual exploitation and abuse, including policy development, implementation and full justification of proposed capacity on personnel conduct issues (A/60/862) at its sixty-first session.

E. Strengthening operational capacity

1. General

83. Member States should continue to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping is provided from the outset with political support, adequate human, financial and logistical resources, information capacity and a clear, realistic and achievable mandate.

84. The Special Committee recalls the urgent need to strengthen the operational capacity of the United Nations at all levels in the field and at headquarters, in particular the Secretariat's military and police planning capacities.

85. The Special Committee invites the Security Council to accord particular attention and in a timely manner to the requirements for reinforcing missions' capacities brought to its attention by the Secretary-General.

2. Military capacities

86. The Special Committee underscores the vital importance of the military function within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and reiterates that urgent strengthening of the capacity of the military division is a priority.

87. The Special Committee notes the establishment of a strategic military cell as an ad hoc mechanism to provide military strategic guidance for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Special Committee emphasizes the need to ensure unity of command and headquarters coordination in military planning. Stressing the need for equitable treatment of peacekeeping operations with respect to their needs for adequate military planning capacity, including at the start-up or when considering major changes, the Special Committee requests that the Secretariat undertake a comprehensive review of the strategic military cell, including clarification on its role and functioning, and present it to the Special Committee at its next substantive session.

88. In light of the expected continued demands on military components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and the strategic role that the Military Adviser plays both within United Nations peacekeeping operations and within the Secretariat on military matters pertaining to United Nations field operations, the Special Committee supports upgrading the post of the Military Adviser to the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

3. Rapid deployment

89. In order to overcome the contingent-owned equipment and sustainability shortfall faced by some troop-contributing countries, the Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to facilitate various enabling arrangements, including through other Member States and bilateral arrangements.

90. The Special Committee reiterates the urgent need for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities for United Nations peacekeeping missions in crisis and encourages the Secretariat to continue to explore different options in this regard in consultation with Member States.

91. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of providing a rapid and credible response to address a crisis that creates a serious threat to a mission, and looks forward to receiving information on the modalities being discussed and developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the existing options: provision of enhanced rapidly deployable capacities through arrangements with troop-contributing countries; inter-mission cooperation; and regional arrangements. The Special Committee notes that in times of sustained high demand, effective and efficient rapidly deployable capabilities provide an essential tool to support missions operating in unstable contexts.

92. The Special Committee notes that recent cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations in responding to crises provides a useful example for other regional arrangements to develop and provide capacities to the United Nations, and recommends further exploring similar partnerships with regional actors, in particular the African Union. The Special Committee looks forward to a continued dialogue with the Secretariat with a view to developing modalities for enhanced cooperation in respect of rapidly deployable peacekeeping capacities of regional arrangements, bearing in mind political processes and other considerations.

93. The Special Committee notes there is still a need for a flexible framework to ensure a smooth transition from an operation led by a regional arrangement to a United Nations peacekeeping operation, and vice versa, taking into consideration

the prerogatives and functions of the Security Council and accepted principles of United Nations peacekeeping.

94. The Special Committee welcomes the progress that has been made in reviewing the effectiveness of the United Nations standby arrangements system and calls for the strengthening and optimal utilization of that system as a key component of the United Nations ability to deploy rapidly.

95. The Special Committee notes that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has completed, as requested, a reinforcement policy paper. In order to facilitate due consideration of enhanced rapidly deployable capacities, the Special Committee supports the re-establishment of an informal open-ended working group of interested Member States, including potential troop- and police-contributing countries, to work in close partnership with the Secretariat to further develop the concept of enhanced rapidly deployable capacities. Once the working group has completed its work, the Secretariat is requested to submit a comprehensive report, including all modalities and financial implications, to the General Assembly for its consideration.

96. In addition, the Special Committee notes that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is implementing a reinforcement needs assessment programme. The Special Committee requests to be briefed on the programme upon its completion.

4. Integrated planning

97. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of an effective and transparent integrated mission planning process, involving Member States and relevant parts of the United Nations system when appropriate. In this context, the Special Committee welcomes the intention to continue the development of the integrated mission planning process and to simplify the process to the maximum extent possible.

98. The Special Committee calls on the Secretariat to fully implement the integrated mission planning process, endorsed by the Secretary-General's Policy Committee, with immediate effect for future planning of complex multidimensional missions, including for all technical assessment missions.

99. The Special Committee requests that, within the integrated mission planning process, the practice of sharing the concept of operations, operational plan and rules of engagement at an early stage of mission planning, and subsequently on a regular and systematic basis, with relevant stakeholders should be enhanced. This will facilitate national planning, enhance planning of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations itself, enhance transparency prior to submitting recommendations to the Security Council, and add impetus to force generation. The Special Committee also recognizes that a training course and handbook on the integrated mission planning process will be crucial to improving the planning process and should eventually be made available to relevant stakeholders, in particular the troop-contributing countries, as well as to all United Nations agencies as quickly as possible.

100. The Special Committee recommends an effective inter-agency oversight process be put in place, which will be responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of the integrated mission planning process.

5. Mission leadership

101. The Special Committee stresses the need for the Secretariat to identify qualified candidates from troop-contributing countries for senior mission leadership posts.

102. The Special Committee notes the importance of involving the mission's leadership at the earliest stage possible in the integrated mission planning process.

103. The integrated mission planning process should be an integral part of the United Nations senior mission leadership training.

6. Strengthening United Nations mission headquarters

104. The Special Committee welcomes the issuance by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of a directive on joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres and urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that lessons learned and good practices in the field are included in the guidelines and training for such centres. The Special Committee notes that although clear policy direction has been issued on these new capabilities, significant challenges remain in implementation.

105. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to offer an assessment at its next substantive session of progress in the implementation and effectiveness of joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres in the field, including information-sharing mechanisms between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, troop-contributing countries and field commanders.

106. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to establish a working group to investigate the requirement to strengthen headquarters operational capacity for new missions until normal staffing of the headquarters occurs.

107. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of coherent mission leadership and the assembling of appropriate expertise in United Nations peacekeeping operations, especially the mission headquarters. The Special Committee welcomes the steps taken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to select force commanders, police commissioners and key headquarters staff as early as possible and to provide them with joint training, and urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue its efforts in this regard.

108. The Special Committee notes that, given the fluid and unpredictable environment confronting United Nations peacekeeping operations, particularly during times of crisis, force commanders and other senior personnel in missions must be provided with sufficient operational and administrative flexibility to tackle crisis situations within the mission mandate.

7. United Nations police capacities

109. The Special Committee welcomes the implementation of the initial operating capability for the Standing Police Capacity and looks forward to its early operationalization.

110. In order to fulfil objectives of the Standing Police Capacity and to respond to the growing demand in police, and to support other capacity-building issues in host countries, such as corrections, during peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee supports the consideration of appropriate strengthening of the initial operating capability and looks forward to the report to be presented to the Special Committee on the comprehensive review of all aspects of the Standing Police Capacity at the end of its first year of operation.

111. The Special Committee urges transparency in further recruitment and requests that Member States be kept informed of progress in recruitment for the Standing Police Capacity in a timely manner. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of recruiting qualified personnel with due regard to gender balance and geographical representation.

112. The Special Committee welcomes the development of a policy on formed police units and recommends the establishment of standard operations procedures and guidance for training for police-contributing countries to ensure the effectiveness of this capability.

113. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's observation that many police-contributing countries face practical challenges in providing their formed police unit personnel with the equipment to ensure they are self-sustainable. The Special Committee urges interested stakeholders, including the Secretariat, police- and troop-contributing countries and other development partners, to undertake discussions over the coming year to explore how equipment needs might be met.

114. The Special Committee looks forward to the development by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of guidelines in order to better define the role of United Nations police components in peacekeeping operations, including mandated tasks, rules of engagement and interactions with the other components of the mission.

115. The Special Committee emphasizes that the Police Adviser should have unfettered access to the Under-Secretary-General on strategic and operational police matters and retain a position in the senior management of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

8. Doctrine and terminology

116. The Special Committee recognizes that peacekeeping operations have become more complex and broader in scope and, as such, a common understanding of terminology is required in order to promote clarity, common approaches and cooperation. The Special Committee is of the view that it is important to maintain consistency in the terminology used at all levels of decision-making, mandates, management, reporting and documentation at headquarters and in the field.

117. The Special Committee notes the interim glossary of terminology and looks forward to undertaking a meaningful exchange with a view to reaching a consensus on the definition and use of such terms as peacekeeping and peace operations, among others.

118. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made in the development of the capstone doctrine document. The Committee notes its intention to remain engaged in the process of developing this document and looks forward to receiving further reports on the progress of its development over the coming year.

9. Other issues

119. The Special Committee urges all States with capabilities, in particular all members of the Security Council, to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee is of the view that smaller Member States, however limited their capabilities, should be encouraged to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including as part of multinational contingents under United Nations command and control, keeping in view the operational effectiveness of such arrangements.

F. Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations

1. General

120. The Special Committee stresses that sustainable progress on security, national reconciliation and development need to occur in parallel, given the interconnected nature of those challenges in countries emerging from conflicts.

121. The Special Committee reaffirms the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to plan and conduct United Nations peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding and long-term prevention of recurrence of armed conflict. In this context, the Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop coherent operational strategies and early integrated mission planning in close cooperation with other relevant actors within and outside the United Nations system on the basis of lessons learned in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; strengthening of the rule of law, including through processes and mechanisms to address past abuses in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation; security sector reform; quick-impact projects; and mine action, with a view to restoring immediate security and stability in post-conflict societies.

122. The Special Committee notes that a key challenge facing the United Nations in establishing and conducting peacekeeping operations is how to create the most effective and efficient mix of components, recognizing that the resources of the international community are finite, with many competing demands upon them. The Special Committee is of the view that United Nations peacekeeping should be complemented by bilateral or regional assistance and assistance provided by specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

123. The Special Committee affirms that, for complex multidimensional peacekeeping operations, upholding aspects of their mandate is necessary. The Special Committee reiterates that there is no "one-size-fits-all" model for peacekeeping operations and that each mission should take into account the broad needs of the country or countries concerned.

124. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations further explore opportunities for partnerships in post-conflict situations with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as regional arrangements such as the European Union, with a view to establishing effective cooperation.

125. The Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs to ensure efficient and orderly transitions

between peacekeeping operations and integrated offices. The Special Committee stresses the importance of avoiding gaps between peacekeeping operations and follow-up missions.

126. The Special Committee emphasizes that it is the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the Government of the host country to determine national priorities for peacebuilding activities. The Special Committee stresses the need for strengthened cooperation and coordination for ensuring common needs assessments, operational clarity and policy coherence on the ground during implementation of those comprehensive strategies in the post-conflict peacebuilding phases, so as to ensure a smooth transition to long-term development activities. Such cooperation is needed among the principal organs, specialized agencies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system under their respective mandates, as well as with the Bretton Woods institutions, international donors, humanitarian organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society. Cooperation with the business community is particularly important given its crucial role in supporting peacebuilding and longer-term development, inter alia through providing employment opportunities to demobilized fighters and thereby contributing to reconstruction and post-conflict resolution. The Special Committee recognizes the particular need to ensure the sustainable handover of peacebuilding activities to the national authorities.

127. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations need to be complemented with activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the affected populations, including quick implementation of highly effective and visible projects that help create jobs and deliver basic social services in the post-conflict phase.

128. The Special Committee stresses that the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, in cooperation with local authorities, should develop and engage in coordination systems, which should focus on immediate needs as well as long-term reconstruction and poverty reduction. The Special Committee recognizes that better coordination with United Nations country teams and the various development actors is of paramount importance to ensure greater efficiency in development efforts and address urgent development problems.

2. Peacebuilding Commission

129. The Special Committee underlines the importance of effective coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Support Office, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and non-United Nations partners in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for a coherent and coordinated approach, building on the respective strengths of various actors, including relevant United Nations bodies, in peacebuilding efforts. In this respect, the Special Committee recognizes the various frameworks for coordination within the United Nations system and requests the Secretariat to keep it informed on progress during 2007. The Special Committee stresses the contribution of the Peacebuilding Commission at the strategic level while noting that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is in the lead on all operational matters related to the planning and conduct of integrated peacekeeping operations.

130. The Special Committee underlines the need to formulate peacebuilding strategies and programmes that are integrated with host nation strategies and programmes to ensure national ownership.

131. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the substantial assistance that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and peacekeeping missions have provided to the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office in the preparation of the meetings and work of these bodies. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of inter-agency coordination mechanisms to ensure coordination between all United Nations actors involved in peacebuilding. It encourages regular exchange and interaction among United Nations partners and with Member States to increase knowledge sharing and best practices on all issues related to peacebuilding.

3. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

132. The Special Committee stresses that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are crucial components of peace processes and peacekeeping operations, and their success depends on the political will, and concerted effort, of all parties. The Special Committee reiterates the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to design and implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in partnership with the national Government, other United Nations actors, the World Bank, donors, regional arrangements and non-governmental organizations. The Special Committee calls on the Secretariat to consider how best to structure headquarters support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the field, while continuing to work in the inter-agency working group.

133. The Special Committee welcomes the launch of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration resource centre, and the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, together with other United Nations partners, ensure that all new disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are developed in line with these standards. The Special Committee takes note of progress with the integrated standards pilots in two countries and the intention of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to review the lessons learned, and requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations update the integrated standards accordingly. The Special Committee further requests a briefing on lessons learned in the implementation of the integrated standards during 2007.

134. The Special Committee recognizes the need to take a conflict-sensitive approach when carrying out disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, taking into account the underlying causes of conflict. The Special Committee further recognizes the importance of linking disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes to other elements of the peacebuilding framework such as the rule of law and democratic governance. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are carried out within a broad peacebuilding strategy, including institution building, and are integrated fully with the host country's national strategy on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform and transitional justice, and encourages the inter-agency working group to develop guidance on these issues for

the integrated standards. Such programmes should be developed consistent with both the legal culture of the area and its people and internationally agreed standards.

135. The Special Committee encourages the development partners in the inter-agency working group to further develop in-depth guidance on the assessment, planning and implementation of economic reintegration programmes for the integrated standards. The Special Committee also calls for long-term commitment by the donor community in support of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes. In this regard, the Special Committee invites the Secretary-General, in coordination with national Governments and all relevant partners, to identify any additional needs.

136. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring that all women and children associated with armed forces and groups are systematically included in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, taking into account their specific needs and rights, especially those of girls, with a particular emphasis on reintegration and education. The Special Committee recommends that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes include special measures to ensure early release of children from armed groups and to prevent recruitment.

4. Security sector reform

137. The Special Committee acknowledges that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundation for collective security and well-being.

138. Since it is the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities for security sector reform, the Special Committee stresses the importance of United Nations peacekeeping operations working in full partnership with the country concerned in the provision of assistance in this area. The Special Committee recognizes that security sector reform in post-conflict countries is usually a long-term process that should be nationally owned and context-specific. The Special Committee notes that a number of United Nations peacekeeping operations are mandated to assist national authorities and parties to the peace process as appropriate in reforming the strategies and institutions associated with the security sector.

139. The Special Committee recognizes that the establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is an important element in the transition from United Nations peacekeeping to sustainable peace and development. Early planning and implementation of security sector reform by national authorities, working with relevant partners, is therefore important.

140. The Special Committee recognizes the need for better coordination of efforts between all partners involved in supporting security sector reform activities in order to ensure comprehensive implementation in line with national strategies and good distribution of resources and activities, where appropriate, and to avoid duplication of effort. In this regard, the Special Committee notes that in some cases the United Nations may be requested by the relevant national authorities to facilitate coordination for security sector reform activities in the field.

141. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in security sector reform programmes.

142. The Special Committee looks forward to receiving the findings of the review conducted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme on United Nations capacities in security sector reform in post-conflict situations as well as the results of the study of the linkage between security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration commissioned by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

143. The Special Committee recommends the formulation of an overall strategy to identify and clarify the main elements of the concept of security sector reform. The General Assembly should have the main role in formulating such a strategy, taking into account existing initiatives and work being done within the United Nations.

144. The Special Committee recognizes the need for a holistic and coherent approach to security sector reform within the United Nations system. In this regard, the Special Committee acknowledges the efforts of the inter-agency working group to develop common United Nations standards and guidance in the implementation of United Nations support to national authorities for security sector reform. The Special Committee notes in this regard the decision of the Secretary-General's Policy Committee to establish a security sector reform support unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee moreover underlines the importance of incorporating lessons learned from past experience.

145. In the light of the above, the Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly during 2007 a comprehensive report on United Nations approaches to security sector reform.

5. Rule of law

146. The Special Committee recognizes that creating and sustaining stability in a post-conflict environment requires that the causes of the conflict be addressed and local rule of law capacities be established from the beginning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and strengthened. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls the importance of respect for the rule of law in the administration of justice, as a vital contribution to building peace and justice and ending impunity.

147. The Special Committee recognizes the need for greater clarity and specificity in United Nations peacekeeping mandates on rule of law issues, and requests that, where mandated, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to ensure that rule of law and transitional justice are integrated into the strategic and operational planning of peacekeeping operations.

148. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made in assessing lessons learned from past experiences and options for strategies in the field of rule of law for ongoing and future United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to implement lessons learned where appropriate.

149. The Special Committee underlines the importance of the growing United Nations peacekeeping activities in the area of rule of law, especially in the judicial, legal and corrections spheres. Lack of sufficient human and material resources both at Headquarters and in the field could hinder missions' efforts to carry out their mandated tasks.

150. The Special Committee welcomes the continued development of guidance material for operational rule of law issues, such as justice and correctional systems, and encourages further development of common United Nations guidance.

151. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to have peacekeeping operations develop and implement joint rule of law programmes with other parts of the United Nations.

152. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Uniting our strengths: Enhancing United Nations support for the rule of law" (A/61/636-S/2006/980) and of all the recommendations aimed at strengthening system-wide arrangements for the Organization's work on rule of law in the context of peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

153. The Special Committee supports the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in strengthening its rule of law efforts so that there is a coherent approach of Headquarters and peacekeeping missions on rule of law. The Special Committee notes with satisfaction that a detailed proposal on rule of law capacity will be submitted by the Secretary-General in the comprehensive report on the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations requested by the General Assembly.

6. Children and peacekeeping

154. The Special Committee recognizes the specific needs of children in armed conflict situations, including the particular vulnerability of the girl child, as specified in General Assembly resolution 60/231 and Security Council resolution 1612 (2005). The specific needs of children should be taken into account in armed conflict situations, peace negotiations and peace arrangements.

155. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to give special attention to the protection, welfare and rights of children in armed conflict when considering action aimed at maintaining peace and security, including the provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as well as the inclusion of child protection advisers in those operations.

7. Gender and peacekeeping

156. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations integrate gender perspectives into mandated tasks in post-conflict countries at both the national and regional levels in the context of peacekeeping operations.

157. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, the Special Committee welcomes the adoption of the comprehensive policy directive on gender equality in peacekeeping. The Special Committee recommends continued engagement by the gender unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to support effective implementation of the policy directive.

158. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to finalize the comprehensive gender training strategy and the gender training tools for peacekeepers. In addition, the Special Committee believes that training programmes should adequately address different gender situations in the

field, including gender-based violence. The Special Committee also believes that gender training should be mandatory for all mission staff, especially at the senior level.

159. The Special Committee notes that a Gender Trainer position in the Integrated Training Service is currently being funded for a year through voluntary contributions. The Special Committee invites the Secretary-General to give consideration to developing a proposal for gender capacity within the Integrated Training Service.

160. The Special Committee notes with concern the continuing under-representation of women at senior management levels and among uniformed personnel in peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop a comprehensive strategy to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/164 and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

161. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to build partnerships within the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming with a view to ensuring that individual United Nations personnel are made responsible for gender issues and are being assessed against their performance in delivering progress.

162. The Special Committee recognizes the contribution of non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and networks, on gender issues in the context of peacebuilding.

8. HIV/AIDS and peacekeeping

163. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's concern with the high rates of AIDS-related deaths in peacekeeping missions and urges troop-contributing countries to continue to work with the Secretariat to harmonize and bolster predeployment awareness programmes and to apply United Nations guidelines on medical clearance and medical conditions that preclude deployment. The Special Committee welcomes the review of lessons learned in HIV/AIDS programmes in peacekeeping, and looks forward to the outcome of research being undertaken on the public health aspects of HIV/AIDS and peacekeeping.

164. In this regard, further to Security Council resolution 1308 (2000), the Special Committee again urges the Department for Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that all missions have sufficient and accessible HIV voluntary confidential counselling and testing capacity for all United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee commends outreach efforts by peacekeeping operations, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), to raise awareness among host communities, and the collaborative efforts to integrate HIV issues in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

165. The Special Committee believes that technical assessment missions for planning for new peacekeeping operations should routinely include medical experts.

9. Public information

166. The Special Committee stresses the importance of a public information and outreach policy for the success of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. The local population and all relevant national actors need to be informed in a transparent and constant manner about the mandate, activities and development of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee reaffirms the need for continued and enhanced cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information and for consideration of the languages of the local population to be kept at the forefront of all public information efforts.

10. Quick-impact projects

167. The Special Committee welcomes the inclusion of quick-impact projects in peacekeeping operations, and continues to recognize the important contribution they make towards the successful implementation of mandates by addressing the immediate needs of local populations and building confidence in, and support for, peacekeeping operations.

168. The Special Committee stresses that quick-impact projects are an integral part of both mission planning and development and the implementation of comprehensive strategies to meet the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations.

169. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for a comprehensive policy, including questions of resource allocation, for quick-impact projects, bearing in mind the unique nature and mandate of each peacekeeping operation. The Special Committee looks forward to the discussion of the policy on quick-impact projects by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

G. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

170. The Special Committee believes that there is a need to enhance the relationship between those who plan, mandate and manage United Nations peacekeeping operations and those who implement the mandates for those operations. Troop-contributing countries, through their experience and expertise, can greatly contribute to the planning process and can assist the Security Council in making appropriate, effective and timely decisions on United Nations peacekeeping operations.

171. The Special Committee underlines the need for full implementation of the provisions contained in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) and the note by the President of the Security Council of 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56) in order to utilize optimally these mechanisms to forge a stronger relationship with troop-contributing countries. The consultations with troop-contributing countries should be held at all stages of a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

172. The Special Committee believes that such consultations should be held sufficiently in advance of the renewal or mandating of an operation by the Security Council, so that the views of troop-contributing countries can contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process. It also believes that such meetings should be convened, including at the request of troop-contributing countries,

according to the modalities set out in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001). It calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that copies of the report of the Secretary-General on specific United Nations peacekeeping operations are circulated to the troop-contributing countries in good time to allow for the holding of meetings with those countries before discussions among Security Council members are held. The Special Committee encourages all troop-contributing countries to participate actively in meetings with the Security Council and the Secretariat, in order to achieve meaningful outcomes.

173. The Special Committee underscores the importance of better interaction between the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries, so that the experience and expertise of troop-contributing countries can be drawn upon when implementing and extending United Nations peacekeeping mandates. The Special Committee encourages the Security Council Working Group to implement the recommendations contained in its report of 13 December 2006 (S/2006/972).

174. The Special Committee emphasizes that any invitation by the Secretariat to meetings on establishing a new, or expanding an ongoing, United Nations peacekeeping mission should be transparent and should include all troop-contributing countries.

175. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any change in the tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure which have an impact on the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, in order to enable troop-contributing countries to give their advice in the planning process and to ensure that their troops have the capacity to meet the new demands. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries concerned when planning a drawdown of troops in any United Nations peacekeeping operation. The implementation of the drawdown should take place only after consideration of inputs from the troop-contributing countries and bearing in mind the situation on the ground. The Special Committee is of the view that existing procedures for interaction between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council should be used to their fullest extent.

176. The Special Committee recognizes and welcomes the progress that the Secretariat has made in increasing its cooperation and consultations with troop-contributing countries through, inter alia, the briefings and meetings held during the past year, and looks forward to continued and improved cooperation in the coming year, including easy access to briefing material in written form.

H. Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities

177. The Special Committee welcomes the signing of the United Nations-African Union joint declaration entitled "Enhancing United Nations-African Union Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union" (A/61/630, annex), in particular the United Nations system's commitment to building the capacity of the African Union and its subregional arrangements in peacekeeping matters.

178. The Special Committee notes that, in strengthening African peacekeeping capabilities, the provision of logistical and financial reserves to facilitate the African Union's rapid deployment capabilities is of primary importance.

179. The Special Committee notes the establishment of a joint action plan for United Nations support to the African Union in peacekeeping in the short, medium, and longer term, focusing primarily on collaboration in the areas of conflict prevention and peacekeeping, in particular assistance to the development of the African Standby Force. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations support the African Union in ensuring commonality of doctrine and procedures for joint planning and operational validation in its coordination with subregional economic communities.

180. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of a multidisciplinary African Union peacekeeping support team in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the deployment of its operational element in Addis Ababa as well as the backstopping capacity in New York to provide guidance. It recommends that the support team serve as a coordination point for all issues in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations related to cooperation with the African Union and looks forward to receiving further information regarding its functioning and mandate, particularly as relates to the question of providing much-needed technical support to the subregional capacities.

181. Given the multiplicity of stakeholders involved directly and indirectly in African capacity-building, there is a need for effective coordination of support to the African Union. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the African Union's lead and ownership of its 10-year capacity-building plan, including donor coordination. The United Nations may assist by providing an arena for such coordination.

I. Cooperation with regional arrangements

182. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, and when the mandate and capacity of regional arrangements or agencies allow.

183. The Special Committee recognizes that regional arrangements have unique and complementary capacities to offer in cooperation with United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges the United Nations to strengthen its operational linkages and partnership with regional arrangements. A strong partnership with regional arrangements in United Nations peacekeeping operations would have a positive impact on the optimal use of limited resources.

184. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations establish a framework to operationalize practical cooperation and replace ad hoc arrangements with effective coordination mechanisms and measures between the United Nations and regional arrangements, as well as other donors and partners, with the objective of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of international peacekeeping efforts. In developing this framework, the Committee

recommends that full consideration be given to lessons learned from recent experiences.

185. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's proposal to establish within the Secretariat a capacity for partnerships other than that dedicated to the African Union to serve as a coordination point for all issues related to cooperation with regional arrangements and other multilateral partners engaged in matters relating to peacekeeping operations. The Committee believes that this new capacity could help avoid duplication or competition of efforts among multilateral institutions.

186. The Special Committee looks forward to a continued dialogue with the Secretariat to make the best use of the possibilities of employing regional arrangements' capacities under appropriate circumstances, as envisaged in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), which recognizes the importance of forging predictable formalized partnerships between the United Nations and regional arrangements with a view to bringing the respective organizations closer together.

187. The Special Committee reiterates its support for the Secretary-General's proposal to move beyond discussion of possible frameworks for cooperation and to implement concrete modalities for operational cooperation in peacekeeping within the framework of regional arrangements.

J. Best practices

188. The Special Committee reiterates its belief in the importance of incorporating lessons learned and best practices in the planning and conduct of ongoing and future missions.

189. The Special Committee welcomes efforts to improve access to policy and best practices documents through the increased use of information technologies such as the new Department of Peacekeeping Operations Intranet and communities of practice; takes note of the expanding database of policy, guidance, best practices and mission materials currently available to peacekeeping staff and training centres; and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to expand the access of troop-contributing countries to these resources.

190. The Special Committee welcomes efforts made to decentralize capacity for identifying best practices and lessons learned through the deployment of field-based best practices officers. It notes the central role played by such officers in sharing best practices among peacekeeping missions and in the identification of lessons for incorporation in official peacekeeping guidance. The Special Committee recognizes that increased best-practices capacity in complex operations would be beneficial to the peacekeeping system, and therefore recommends that the function become a feature of peacekeeping operations through the initial deployment of at least one officer, where appropriate.

K. Training

191. The Special Committee attaches high importance to training as United Nations peacekeeping demands increase, and notes in this regard the utility of tapping the

experience of major troop contributors with considerable background in peacekeeping operations, particularly those which are more complex, and of encouraging and supporting them in providing a wide range of training opportunities to other countries, including the new and emerging troop-contributing countries.

192. The Special Committee continues to be encouraged by the partnerships that have been established between Member States, United Nations peacekeeping missions, the Secretariat and other agencies working together to develop and improve United Nations peacekeeping training standards and to incorporate these standards into their training curricula.

193. The Special Committee recognizes the expanded training needs resulting from the surge in the size, scope and complexity of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recognizes the establishment of a Training Delivery Section at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi as an important step to strengthen the training capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

194. The Special Committee continues to support the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide national and regional peacekeeping training centres, as well as national training focal points located in Member States, with the necessary guidance for training United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

195. The Special Committee, acknowledging that multidimensional peacekeeping demands expertise and experience that most Member States cannot muster on a continuous basis, encourages cooperation in peacekeeping training among Member States.

196. The Special Committee again underlines the importance it attaches to the development by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of a training strategy and policy which will form the basis for the delivery of police and military training and substantive and specialist civilian training. This strategy should include forms of cooperation with regional and national training centres, as appropriate.

197. Noting the critical role of training components in the field, the Special Committee supports the integrated mission training centres concept and awaits key policies on integrated training to strengthen this field-based capacity to be submitted to all stakeholders for their consideration.

198. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of the Integrated Training Service, as an important step in ensuring a comprehensive, integrated training policy for all United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure that Member States are informed of and enabled to contribute to the ongoing development and roles of the Integrated Training Service.

199. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to fill the key leadership post within the Integrated Training Service as a matter of urgency and for the Integrated Training Service to be provided with the resources that it needs to function as the training policy branch for peacekeeping within the Secretariat.

200. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Integrated Training Service to develop standardized training modules for various categories of peacekeeping personnel and encourages the Service to continue to consult with Member States and peacekeeping training centres in finalizing and piloting the modules and disseminating them to Member States and peacekeeping operations in the six official languages.

201. The Special Committee notes the importance of evaluation of training in United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee suggests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations develop and implement an evaluation methodology and strengthen the evaluation process for training in the field.

202. The Special Committee welcomes the certification by the Integrated Training Service of United Nations courses conducted by national training centres and the ongoing development of standardized training modules.

203. The Special Committee recommends that the Integrated Training Service develop a set of minimum training standards for peacekeeping missions and related training programmes to enable contingent members to maintain their skills during the time of their deployment. The Special Committee further recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations establish appropriate mechanisms to evaluate the delivery of the senior mission leadership and standardized training modules.

204. The Special Committee recognizes the need for timely professional training for administrative and support staff in the field. Such training is to strengthen leadership, integrity, oversight and fiduciary responsibilities and accountability for decision-making. In this connection, the Special Committee welcomes the current development by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of a senior mission administrative training programme in the areas of ethics and integrity, human resources management, goods and services, financial management and administrative control mechanisms. The Special Committee requests the Integrated Training Service to keep it informed of the development and implementation of this programme.

205. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop a comprehensive gender training strategy that will support effective usage of existing training materials and reinforce gender training capacity at United Nations Headquarters and in United Nations peacekeeping operations, including through partnerships with troop-contributing countries' regional and national peacekeeping training centres. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure the input of gender expertise in the Integrated Training Service to coordinate this effort.

206. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, on an urgent basis, hold a meeting of experts from Member States to review current United Nations peacekeeping publications with a view to prioritizing their translation for use by personnel in United Nations peacekeeping missions. In particular, the Special Committee encourages efforts by the Integrated Training Service to translate training modules into official languages relevant to the missions, taking into consideration the actual requirements of the missions. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations submit the findings of the meeting and any associated resource requirements, to the General Assembly for its consideration.

207. The Special Committee looks forward to the continued development of the senior mission leadership training concept and to the further strengthening of a systematic approach to training senior leaders at all levels of command. This effort should remain under the close supervision of the Integrated Training Service. The Special Committee notes that the ongoing funding of senior mission leadership

training is an issue that needs to be resolved, and requests the Secretary-General to submit funding proposals for consideration by the General Assembly.

208. The Special Committee welcomes the Secretariat's efforts in cooperation with Member States, to facilitate access to online peacekeeping training courses by candidates from developing countries, in particular Africa. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to contribute further to the development of online peacekeeping programmes available in all United Nations official languages and easily accessible to candidates from troop-contributing countries.

209. The Special Committee welcomes current efforts by individual Member States to support the creation of French-language versions of the 18 "E-Learning for African Peacekeepers" courses for field-based personnel offered by the Programme of Correspondence Instruction of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). It recommends that the e-learning programme, offered to all African military and police officers free of charge, be expanded to include newly developed modules such as peacebuilding, gender and peacekeeping and civil-military cooperation. The Special Committee urges UNITAR and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work together in the development and conduct of such training for peacekeepers.

210. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to work with relevant United Nations agencies and national and regional training institutions and forums to support the implementation of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration training in line with the new integrated standards.

L. Personnel matters

211. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretary-General provide further justification for his proposal to create a professional civilian staff capacity to enhance United Nations capabilities in peacekeeping missions.

212. The Special Committee believes that civilian staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must have predictable career prospects, as should most of the professional civilian staff in United Nations peacekeeping operations who are currently on appointments of limited duration.

213. The Special Committee recognizes the positive efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with regard to balanced recruiting of staff and urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts.

214. The Special Committee underlines the importance of balanced recruiting of staff in accordance with General Assembly resolutions. The Special Committee is concerned with the high number of vacancies in peacekeeping missions, and requests the Secretariat to accelerate the recruitment of personnel to fill the vacancies with urgency.

215. The Special Committee believes that appropriate representation in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and peacekeeping missions should also take into account the contributions by Member States. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure a fair representation of troop-contributing countries when selecting personnel for such staff positions.

216. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure that personnel selected for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and peacekeeping missions have the required professional background and expertise.

217. The Special Committee recalls that English and French are the two working languages of the Secretariat. The Special Committee underscores the importance of effective interaction between Headquarters and the field to ensure efficient communications and the safety of all peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, it encourages the Secretary-General to take steps to employ staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations competent in using the Secretariat's working languages.

218. The Special Committee acknowledges that the interaction of United Nations military observers, police and civilian personnel with the local population is necessary. To that end, language skills constitute an important element of the selection and training processes. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to make further efforts in recruiting staff and experts on mission with language skills that are relevant to the particular mission area where they are to be deployed, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations. Therefore, it affirms that good command of the official language spoken in the country should be taken into account as an additional asset during these processes.

219. The Special Committee reminds the Secretariat that staff sent to United Nations field operations to conduct examinations for experts on mission in particular examinations in language and driving skills, are to be certified and adhere to examination criteria based on the standard United Nations programmes.

220. The Special Committee notes the efforts made by the Police and Military Divisions in recruiting French-speaking peacekeepers, especially police officers, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations.

221. The Special Committee supports the recommendation of the departmental working group contained in document A/60/696 that staff officers in the field should retain the status of contingent personnel, with support arrangements revised to provide for mission subsistence allowance for staff officers in lieu of payment of troop costs to troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee invites the General Assembly to endorse this recommendation during its sixty-first session in order to harmonize sustainment arrangements for mission headquarters personnel.

222. Noting the current differences of approach to the conditions of service of deputy force commanders currently serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop proposals to address this issue for consideration by the General Assembly.

223. The Special Committee is concerned that the United Nations death and disability claims process for peacekeeping personnel is overly cumbersome, lengthy and lacking in transparency. The Special Committee notes also that discrepancies exist between the compensation benefits provided to experts on mission and those provided to contingent members. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to undertake a review of current death and disability policy with a view to harmonizing existing policies and streamlining the claims process.

M. Financial issues

224. The Special Committee again stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

225. The Special Committee notes that there has been continued improvement in addressing delays in the payment of reimbursement claims and encourages further progress. The Special Committee also notes that there are still contributors that have not yet been reimbursed for their participation in various ongoing and closed missions, going back more than a decade. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to continue to look into practical modalities to address this exceptional circumstance and to inform Member States at the earliest opportunity.

226. The Special Committee notes that the General Assembly resumes its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal on the feasibility of the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts at the second part of its resumed sixty-first session.

227. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring the timely reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries for their peacekeeping contributions. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing and payment of reimbursements.

228. The financial contribution of Member States is essential to the success of United Nations peacekeeping operations and timely and unconditional payments are important. The Special Committee recognizes that the views of contributors other than troop-contributing countries should also be taken into account, as appropriate. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made in holding regular, routine consultations between all stakeholders and the main peacekeeping decision-making bodies.

229. The Special Committee emphasizes that when a new mission is being planned, full account must be taken of the strategy for mission completion. After a mission is established, periodic reviews should be undertaken to ensure that its activities are implemented effectively and efficiently, on the basis of previously defined expected achievements and indicators, including through cost reductions and enhanced synergy through cooperation and coordination with other missions in the same region, as appropriate. In addition, the size of a mission must be adjusted in line with the gradual fulfilment of its mandate.

N. Other matters

230. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of General Assembly resolution 57/129 of 11 December 2002, in which 29 May was designated as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers as a tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

231. The Special Committee invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe annually this International Day in an appropriate manner.

232. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the issuance of the addendum to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which makes a useful contribution in support of its work, and requests that this addendum to the Secretary-General's report continue to be provided annually.

Annex

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2007 session

Members:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers:

Angola, Burundi, Cape Verde, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Haiti, Israel, Lesotho, Panama, Viet Nam, Holy See, Sovereign Military Order of Malta, European Community, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

Part three
2007 resumed session

At its 200th meeting, held on 11 June 2007, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. By its resolution 61/267 of 16 May 2007, the General Assembly requested the open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations to continue consideration of the revised draft model memorandum of understanding at a resumed session to be held no later than June 2007.

2. The open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts, meeting from 29 May to 1 June 2007 and on 11 June 2007, finalized the revised draft model memorandum of understanding in the form of amendments to the model memorandum of understanding contained in chapter 9 of the "Manual on Policies and Procedures Concerning the Reimbursement and Control of Contingent-Owned Equipment of Troop/Police Contributors Participating in Peacekeeping Missions (COE Manual)" (A/C.5/60/26, annex).

3. At its 200th meeting, the Special Committee considered the revised draft model memorandum of understanding and decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to incorporate in the model memorandum of understanding the amendments contained in the annex to the present report.

4. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the present report.

Annex

Revised draft model memorandum of understanding*

1. *In article 2, after the reference to annex G, insert a reference to annex H as follows*:

H. United Nations standards of conduct: We Are United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel

2. *Amend article 3 to read as follows*:

Article 3
Purpose

3. The purpose of the present memorandum of understanding is to establish the administrative, logistics and financial terms and conditions to govern the contribution of personnel, equipment and services provided by the Government in support of [United Nations peacekeeping mission] and to specify United Nations standards of conduct for personnel provided by the Government.

3. *After article 7, insert the following new articles*:

Article 7 bis
United Nations standards of conduct

1. The Government shall ensure that all members of the Government's national contingent are required to comply with the United Nations standards of conduct set out in annex H to the present memorandum of understanding.

2. The Government shall ensure that all members of its national contingent are made familiar with and fully understand the United Nations standards of conduct. To this end, the Government shall, inter alia, ensure that all members of its national contingent receive adequate and effective predeployment training in those standards.

3. The United Nations shall continue to provide to national contingents mission-specific training material on United Nations standards of conduct, mission-specific rules and regulations, and relevant local laws and regulations. Further, the United Nations shall conduct adequate and effective induction training and training during mission assignment to complement predeployment training.

Article 7 ter
Discipline

1. The Government acknowledges that the commander of its national contingent is responsible for the discipline and good order of all members of the contingent while assigned to [United Nations Peacekeeping Mission]. The Government accordingly undertakes to ensure that the Commander of its national contingent is vested with the necessary authority and takes all reasonable measures to maintain discipline and good order among all members

* The revised draft is presented in the form of amendments to the model memorandum of understanding contained in chapter 9 of the annex to document A/C.5/60/26.

of the national contingent to ensure compliance with the United Nations standards of conduct, mission-specific rules and regulations and the obligations towards national and local laws and regulations in accordance with the status-of-forces agreement.

2. The Government undertakes to ensure, subject to any applicable national laws, that the Commander of its national contingent regularly informs the Force Commander of any serious matters involving the discipline and good order of members of its national contingent including any disciplinary action taken for violations of the United Nations standards of conduct or mission-specific rules and regulations or for failure to respect the local laws and regulations.

3. The Government shall ensure that the Commander of its national contingent receives adequate and effective predeployment training in the proper discharge of his or her responsibility for maintaining discipline and good order among all members of the contingent.

4. The United Nations shall assist the Government in fulfilling its requirements under paragraph 3 above by organizing training sessions for commanders upon their arrival in the mission on the United Nations standards of conduct, mission-specific rules and regulations and the local laws and regulations.

5. The Government shall use its welfare payments to provide adequate welfare and recreation facilities to its contingent members in the mission.

Article 7 quater
Investigations

It is understood that the Government has the primary responsibility for investigating any acts of misconduct or serious misconduct committed by a member of its national contingent.

1. In the event that the Government has prima facie grounds indicating that any member of its national contingent has committed an act of serious misconduct, it shall without delay inform the United Nations and forward the case to its appropriate national authorities for the purposes of investigation.

2. In the event that the United Nations has prima facie grounds indicating that any member of the Government's national contingent has committed an act of misconduct or serious misconduct, the United Nations shall without delay inform the Government. If necessary to preserve evidence and where the Government does not conduct fact-finding proceedings, the United Nations may, in cases of serious misconduct, as appropriate, where the United Nations has informed the Government of the allegation, initiate a preliminary fact-finding inquiry of the matter, until the Government starts its own investigation. It is understood in this connection that any such preliminary fact-finding inquiry will be conducted by the appropriate United Nations investigative office, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in accordance with the rules of the Organization. Any such preliminary fact-finding inquiry shall include as part of the investigation team a representative of the Government. The United Nations shall provide a

complete report of its preliminary fact-finding inquiry to the Government at its request without delay.

3 (a). In the event that the Government does not notify the United Nations as soon as possible, but no later than 10 working days from the time of notification by the United Nations, that it will start its own investigation of the alleged serious misconduct, the Government is considered to be unwilling or unable to conduct such an investigation and the United Nations may, as appropriate, initiate an administrative investigation of alleged serious misconduct without delay. The administrative investigation conducted by the United Nations in regard to any member of the national contingent shall respect those legal rights of due process that are provided to him or her by national and international law. Any such administrative investigation includes as part of the investigation team a representative of the Government if the Government provides one. In case the Government nevertheless decides to start its own investigation, the United Nations provides all available materials of the case to the Government without delay. In cases where a United Nations administrative investigation is completed, the United Nations shall provide the Government with the findings of, and the evidence gathered in the course of, the investigation.

3 (b). In the case of a United Nations administrative investigation into possible serious misconduct by any member of the national contingent, the Government agrees to instruct the Commander of its national contingent to cooperate and to share documentation and information, subject to applicable national laws, including military laws. The Government also undertakes, through the Commander of its national contingent, to instruct the members of its national contingent to cooperate with such United Nations investigation, subject to applicable national laws, including military laws.

4 (a). When the Government decides to start its own investigation and to identify or send one or more officials to investigate the matter, it shall immediately inform the United Nations of that decision, including the identities of the official or officials concerned (hereafter "National Investigations Officers").

4 (b). The United Nations agrees to cooperate fully and to share documentation and information with appropriate authorities of the Government, including any National Investigations Officers, who are investigating possible misconduct or serious misconduct by any member of the Government's national contingent.

4 (c). Upon the request of the Government, the United Nations shall cooperate with the competent authorities of the Government, including any National Investigations Officers, that are investigating possible misconduct or serious misconduct by any members of its national contingent in liaising with other Governments contributing personnel in support of [United Nations peacekeeping mission], as well as with the competent authorities in the mission area, with a view to facilitating the conduct of those investigations. To this end, the United Nations shall take all possible measures to obtain consent from the host authorities. The competent authorities of the Government shall ensure that prior authorization for access to any victim or witness who is not a member of the national contingent, as well as for the collection or securing of

evidence not under the ownership and control of the national contingent, is obtained from the host nation competent authorities.

4 (d). In cases where National Investigations Officers are dispatched to the mission areas, they would lead the investigations. The role of the United Nations investigators in such cases will be to assist the National Investigations Officers, if necessary, in the conduct of their investigations in terms of, e.g. identification and interviewing of witnesses, recording witness statements, collection of documentary and forensic evidence and provision of administrative as well as logistical assistance.

4 (e). Subject to its national laws and regulations, the Government shall provide the United Nations with the findings of investigations conducted by its competent authorities, including any National Investigations Officers, into possible misconduct or serious misconduct by any member of its national contingent.

4 (f). When National Investigations Officers are deployed in the mission area, they will enjoy the same legal status as if they were members of their respective contingent while they are in the mission area, or host country.

4 (g). Upon the request of the Government, the United Nations shall provide administrative and logistic support to the National Investigations Officers while they are in the mission area or host country. The Secretary-General will provide, in accordance with his authority, financial support as appropriate for the deployment of National Investigations Officers in situations where their presence is requested by the United Nations, normally the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and where financial support is requested by the Government. The United Nations will request the Government to deploy National Investigations Officers in high-risk, complex matters and in cases of serious misconduct. This paragraph is without prejudice to the sovereign right of the Government to investigate any misconduct of its contingent members.

Article 7 quinquiens
Exercise of jurisdiction by the Government

1. Military members and any civilian members subject to national military law of the national contingent provided by the Government are subject to the Government's exclusive jurisdiction in respect of any crimes or offences that might be committed by them while they are assigned to the military component of [United Nations peacekeeping mission]. The Government assures the United Nations that it shall exercise such jurisdiction with respect to such crimes or offences.

2. The Government further assures the United Nations that it shall exercise such disciplinary jurisdiction as might be necessary with respect to all other acts of misconduct committed by any members of the Government's national contingent while they are assigned to the military component of [United Nations peacekeeping mission] that do not amount to crimes or offences.

Article 7 sexiens
Accountability

1. If either a United Nations investigation or an investigation conducted by the competent authorities of the Government concludes that suspicions of misconduct by any member of the Government's national contingent are well founded, the Government shall ensure that the case is forwarded to its appropriate authorities for due action. The Government agrees that those authorities shall take their decision in the same manner as they would in respect of any other offence or disciplinary infraction of a similar nature under its laws or relevant disciplinary code. The Government agrees to notify the Secretary-General of progress on a regular basis, including the outcome of the case.

2. If a United Nations investigation, in accordance with appropriate procedures, or the Government's investigation concludes that suspicions of failure by the contingent Commander to

(a) Cooperate with a United Nations investigation in accordance with article 7 quater paragraph 3 (b), it being understood that the Commander will not have failed to cooperate merely by complying with his or her national laws and regulations, or the Government's investigation; or

(b) Exercise effective command and control; or

(c) Immediately report to appropriate authorities or take action in respect of allegations of misconduct that are reported to him are well founded, the Government shall ensure that the case is forwarded to its appropriate authorities for due action. The fulfilment of these aspects shall be evaluated in the contingent Commander's performance appraisal.

3. The Government understands the importance of settling matters relating to paternity claims involving a member of its contingent. The Government will, to the extent of its national laws, seek to facilitate such claims provided to it by the United Nations to be forwarded to the appropriate national authorities. In the case that the Government's national law does not recognize the legal capacity of the United Nations to provide such claims, these shall be provided to the Government by the appropriate authorities of the host country, in accordance with applicable procedures. The United Nations must ensure that such claims are accompanied by the necessary conclusive evidence, such as a DNA sample of the child when prescribed by the Government's national law.

4. Bearing in mind the contingent commander's obligation to maintain the discipline and good order of the contingent, the United Nations, through the Force Commander, shall ensure that the contingent is deployed in the mission in accordance with agreement between the United Nations and the Government. Any redeployment outside the agreement will be made with the consent of the Government or contingent commander, in accordance with applicable national procedures.

4. *In annex F, insert the following six additional definitions*:

28. **Misconduct** means any act or omission that is a violation of United Nations standards of conduct, mission-specific rules and regulations or the obligations towards national and local laws and regulations in accordance

with the status-of-forces agreement where the impact is outside the national contingent.

29. **Mission-specific rules and regulations** means, mindful of national caveats, standard operating procedures, directives and other regulations, orders and instructions issued by the Head of Mission, Force Commander or Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in accordance with the United Nations standards of conduct; they shall contain information on applicable national and local laws and regulations.

30. **Serious misconduct** is misconduct, including criminal acts, that results in, or is likely to result in, serious loss, damage or injury to an individual or to a mission. Sexual exploitation and abuse constitute serious misconduct.

31. **Sexual abuse** means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

32. **Sexual exploitation** means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

33. **Preliminary fact-finding inquiry** means the preservation of evidence necessary to ensure that a national or United Nations investigation can be successfully carried out at a later stage. While this inquiry may involve the collection of written statements, it will not normally include the interviewing of witnesses or other involved persons.

5. *At the end of chapter 9, insert the following new annex*:

Annex H
We Are United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel

The United Nations Organization embodies the aspirations of all the people of the world for peace.

In this context the United Nations Charter requires that all personnel must maintain the highest standards of integrity and conduct.

We will comply with the Guidelines on International Humanitarian Law for Forces Undertaking United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the applicable portions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the fundamental basis of our standards.

We, as peacekeeping personnel, represent the United Nations and are present in the country to help it recover from the trauma of a conflict. As a result we must consciously be prepared to accept special constraints in our public and private lives in order to do the work and to pursue the ideals of the United Nations Organization.

We will be accorded certain privileges and immunities arranged through agreements negotiated between the United Nations and the host country solely for the purpose of discharging our peacekeeping duties. Expectations of the world community and the local population will be high and our actions, behaviour and speech will be closely monitored.

We will always:

- Conduct ourselves in a professional and disciplined manner, at all times;
- Dedicate ourselves to achieving the goals of the United Nations;
- Understand the mandate and mission and comply with their provisions;
- Respect the environment of the host country;
- Respect local laws, customs and practices and be aware of and respect culture, religion, traditions and gender issues;
- Treat the inhabitants of the host country with respect, courtesy and consideration;
- Act with impartiality, integrity and tact;
- Support and aid the infirm, sick and weak;
- Obey our United Nations superiors/supervisors and respect the chain of command;
- Respect all other peacekeeping members of the mission regardless of status, rank, ethnic or national origin, race, gender, or creed;
- Support and encourage proper conduct among our fellow peacekeeping personnel;
- Report all acts involving sexual exploitation and abuse;
- Maintain proper dress and personal deportment at all times;
- Properly account for all money and property assigned to us as members of the mission; and
- Care for all United Nations equipment placed in our charge.

We will never:

- Bring discredit upon the United Nations, or our nations through improper personal conduct, failure to perform our duties or abuse of our positions as peacekeeping personnel;
- Take any action that might jeopardize the mission;
- Abuse alcohol, use or traffic in drugs;
- Make unauthorized communications to external agencies, including unauthorized press statements;
- Improperly disclose or use information gained through our employment;
- Use unnecessary violence or threaten anyone in custody;
- Commit any act that could result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to members of the local population, especially women and children;

- Commit any act involving sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual activity with children under 18, or exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex;
- Become involved in sexual liaisons which could affect our impartiality, or the well-being of others;
- Be abusive or uncivil to any member of the public;
- Wilfully damage or misuse any United Nations property or equipment;
- Use a vehicle improperly or without authorization;
- Collect unauthorized souvenirs;
- Participate in any illegal activities, corrupt or improper practices; or
- Attempt to use our positions for personal advantage, to make false claims or accept benefits to which we are not entitled.

We realize that the consequences of failure to act within these guidelines may:

- Erode confidence and trust in the United Nations;
- Jeopardize the achievement of the mission;
- Jeopardize our status and security as peacekeeping personnel; and
- Result in administrative, disciplinary or criminal action.

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